Four cross roads should be opened leading to the sea-coast between Alleppey and Ambalapuzha.

DEWAN'S REPLY Mr. Pitcha Bava Sahib, the importance of drinking water and of electrification to Alleppey has been emphasised by the previous speakers; and I have replied that the Chief Engineer is conducting an investigation to find out, by means of borings, if a fair supply of drinking water can be developed from the sub-soil within a practicable distance. The investigation of an electric scheme for the town has been sanctioned and the Chief Engineer hopes that estimates will be ready within the next nine months.

The leper asylum is not so dangerous as it sounds. It is better to have it outside the town. At the moment, the Correspondent says that it cannot be shifted, probably on financial grounds.

The removal of the liquor shops must await the settlement of the general question as I have already stated. I think you all understand the policy of Government in the matter.

As there is a First Class Magistrate's Court and a Bench Magistrate's Court at Alleppey, there is no need for another Stationary Magistrate there. There is one at Ambalapuzha.

I refer you to my answer to the last speaker about the shifting of the Assistant Superintendent of Police from Quilon to Alleppey.

The construction of Police lines must wait until money is available.

Police beat at sea is necessary in a place like Alleppey, and the question will be investigated.

In regard to the four cross roads you want, each one of them will cost Rs. 5,000. If the land required can be secured free of cost, their construction will be considered.

111. Needs of Kuttanad.

MRS. MARY ALEXANDER (*Nominated*) first referred to the grievances and hardship suffered by the people of Kuttanad on account of floods. Ever since the great floods of Kuttanad in 1099, there was regular recurrence of flood twice or thrice every year in Kuttanad. On all these occasions the people had to abandon their homes and take shelter in distant places. The Government were alive to the sufferings of these people and had rendered them some help in the shape of money and rice. But it often happened that the benefit of such help did not go to the really needy people. To remedy this state of affairs, the Government should appoint a committee of officials and non-officials to attend to the needs of the flood-stricken people.

Another matter which had been repeatedly pressed on the attention of the Government was the necessity for formulating a scheme to provide raised grounds in areas likely to be affected by floods for the people and the cattle to resort to in times of flood. But nothing had yet been done in the matter. Immediate action should be taken to do the needful in the matter.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Kuttanad was a low country with a net-work of canals, rivers and backwaters and the people who had to travel even a few yards were obliged to cross a canal or a river. A canoe was indispensable to the inhabitants of Kuttanad. The people were therefore subjected to very great inconvenience and hardship on account of the rule insisting on the registration of *vallams*. It was gratifying however to note that the Government had abolished the necessity of registering *vallams* weighing under a ton. But this was not sufficient in the case of Kuttanad. The registration of all *vallams* used for private and agricultural purposes should be abolished. If this could not be allowed, *vallams* under three tons should be exempted from registration.

Lastly, the member referred to the condition of the *punja* and *kayal* cultivators and spoke about the necessity for taking immediate steps in alleviating their distress. There were in Kuttanad on the whole two hundred thousand acres of *punja* lands under cultivation, including the old *karapadams* and the *kayal* reclamations. Till a few years back, only the *karapadams* were cultivated and the condition of the cultivators was not bad. But of late, due to the low price of paddy, the high cost of cultivation and the poor yield of the land, the ryots were placed in straitened circumstances. The case of the *kayal* cultivators was much worse. Most of them found it impossible to repay the loans borrowed in connection with the reclamation and cultivation of the backwaters. No doubt the Government had sanctioned an allotment of one lakh of rupees for the benefit of the *punja* cultivators and had also established a Land Mortgage Bank. But these measures were not sufficient. Sufficient money should be advanced to these cultivators at a low rate of interest, on the security of their properties, the loan being recovered in easy instalments.

The provisions of the Irrigation Regulation intended to remedy the grievances of the *punja* ryots in the matter of putting up bunds and the baling out of water were not working satisfactorily in Kuttanad. The member therefore suggested the appointment of a special officer not below the rank of a Division Assistant as Irrigation Officer for Kuttanad. Local village boards should also be constituted to assist him in his work.

DEWAN'S REPLY: During the floods of 1106, Mrs. Alexander, a committee of officials and non-officials was appointed to consider applications for agricultural loans from the ryots. It does not seem necessary to have a permanent committee always functioning there, but there is no objection to have a committee of that nature formed whenever floods occur.

The question of providing raised grounds or bits of raised grounds for resort when floods occur will be investigated.

There have been petitions in regard to the Vembanad reclamations. And when I came to Kottayam the other day, I saw some people about that. Government are alive to the grievances and will do what they can.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

In regard to the question of the registration of *vallams*, it is only recently that the concession of abolishing annual registration and making a single initial registration alone necessary, has been granted. This meant a loss of ten thousand rupees annually to Government, and I hope that you will be satisfied with that.

112. Needs of the Shertallai taluk.

MR. K. AIYAPPAN (*Shertallai taluk, Group 1*) said that Shertallai was one of the biggest taluks of the State, thickly populated and yielding a good revenue. Its importance was due to its advantageous position between the two leading ports of the Malabar coast, *viz.*, Alleppey and Cochin. But the taluk was lacking in facilities of communication. As a result of many representations, the Government sanctioned the opening of a canal from Alleppey to Shertallai running through the heart of the taluk. But the work was abandoned after completing 6 miles of the canal. Subsequently, the Government opened a road from Alleppey to Arur running straight through the taluk. But the road was not very useful to the taluk without some cross roads. The road problem of the taluk could be solved by constructing more roads to a total length of 40 to 50 miles. The following cross-roads were absolutely necessary and should be constructed early :—

(i) A road from the 8th mile, 2nd furlong, of the Alleppey-Arur road to the Mararikulam beach. The road would be about two miles in length and an estimate for the same had been sanctioned.

(ii) A road from Kanjikuzhi to Muhamma which was a commercial centre and thickly populated.

(iii) A road from the 10th mile of the Alleppey-Arur road to Kanichikulangara where there was a famous temple, a flourishing English school and a busy market.

(iv) Three roads, one from the 10th mile, 7th furlong, of the Alleppey-Arur road to meet the Tannirmukkam-Muhamma road, another from Ottapanna at the 16th mile of the Alleppey-Arur road to Kanichikulangara and a third from the above-said place to the beach *via* Thanki church.

(v) A road from the 32nd mile of the Arthingal road to the beach.

(vi) Extension of the Tannirmukkam-Muhamma road to meet the Mannanchery-Avalukunnu road.

The member said that these roads would not exceed 30 miles in length and that the urgent necessity for opening these roads had been repeatedly urged on the attention of the Government. He requested the Dewan to pay a visit to the taluk to learn first hand the hardship suffered by the people for want of facilities of communication in the taluk.

Speaking of canals in the taluk, the member said that the following canals were necessary :—

(i) Extension of the Alleppey-Shertallai canal from Shertallai to meet the Varanam Puthen *todu*.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly